

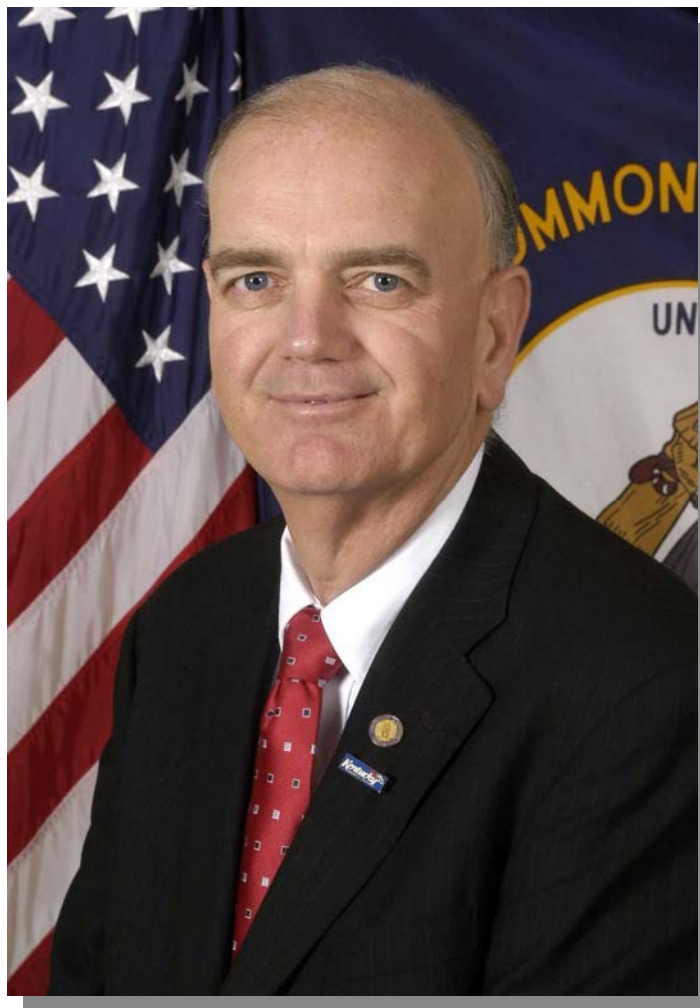
# MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

**I**n honor of National Child Passenger Safety Week, the Transportation Cabinet and the Division of Driver Safety decided to spread awareness throughout the entire month of February, celebrating Kentucky's first ever Child Passenger Safety Month.

It is of critical importance that we focus attention on all aspects of passenger safety, including the safety of our children. When adults adopt good habits, like buckling up, there is a much better chance that their children will be restrained as well.

The Cabinet's Division of Driver Safety welcomed the opportunity to take the Child Passenger Safety Month campaign on the road. They were able to take the message out to the public, on a grass roots level and that is what they do best — hands-on, face-to-face, interactive learning experiences. We want everyone to know that protecting those you love means getting way past any preconceived notions of safety seats being a hassle to use. Drive Smart sponsored safety seat inspection and education events in twenty-four Kentucky cities where Child Passenger Safety Teams showed the public how to properly install and how to use child safety seats.

It is a tragedy that an average of seven children (ages 0-14) are killed and another 866 are injured in motor vehicle crashes each day nationwide. In over half of these collisions, the children were riding unrestrained, either improperly secured in a child safety seat or not wearing a safety belt.



Unfortunately, many parents, grandparents and child care providers are unaware of the correct ways to use their safety seats. That results in their most precious loved ones unknowingly being placed at risk during a crash. We hope Child Passenger Safety Month has made a big difference in awareness of the proper use of child safety seats.

*Bill Nighbert*

*Anyone with questions regarding child passenger safety can call the Division of Driver Safety at (502) 564-1438.*

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**Secretary's Open Door Session**—Watch your email for the next open door session with Secretary Bill Nighbert. The weekly sessions are announced via postmaster for the upcoming week and are open to all KYTC employees. Employees will be seen on a first come/first serve basis. Your thoughts and comments are important to this administration and we appreciate your continued help and support. The purpose of these sessions is to provide employees with an outlet to voice their concerns, questions, and suggestions and to help create a more open environment within the Cabinet.